

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
5 October 1985ARTICLE APPEARED
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FILE ONLY

Envoy captive remains mystery man

NEW YORK [AP]—William Buckley has remained the mystery man among the six remaining hostages in Beirut.

As a bachelor, the 57-year-old Buckley has no family to tell his story to the media. As a longtime government employee, much of his personal life remains protected by federal privacy laws.

As the first hostage taken off the streets of Beirut, his name has been pushed aside by other events in the Mideast.

"He has some family but no one terribly close—nephews or cousins who we've talked to," said Michael Austrian, a State Department spokesman. "All this information falls under Privacy Act considerations."

What is known about the embassy employee is this:

Buckley is listed as a native of Medford, Mass. He served as a captain in the Army and held jobs as a librarian and building contractor. He went to work for the

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Army in 1965 as a civilian employee.

He joined the State Department, taking on his first overseas assignment as a political officer at the U.S. Embassy in Beirut in 1983.

On March 16, 1984, he became the first of eight Americans to be kidnaped by terrorists demanding the release of 17 men held in Kuwait for bombings of the French and U.S. Embassies there.

At the time of Buckley's kidnaping, Robert Pugh, then deputy chief of the U.S. mission, was asked if Buckley was involved in sensitive work.

"He did whatever a political officer does," Pugh said. "He was in contact with various political elements in this society to ascertain what was happening and to report

it."

On Jan. 22, 1985, Buckley appeared in a 56-second videotape that somehow reached Visnews, a British television news agency.

"I am well, and my friends Benjamin Weir and Jeremy Levin are also well," he said. "We ask that our government take action for our release quickly."

Levin escaped his captors in February; Weir was released in mid-September. Both men said they had no contact with Buckley.

Buckley's isolation raised concern about his safety. Weir said he had met with four other hostages—Rev. Lawrence Jenco, David Jacobsen, Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland. He said he knew nothing about Buckley or Peter Kilburn, a librarian at the American University in Beirut.

Because Buckley is a representative of the U.S. government, there was obvious concern that he might be singled out for harsher treatment by his captors.



A photograph of kidnaped American William Buckley was delivered with a statement claiming he had been killed.